

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 17, and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13-16, and 19-24 are canceled by the present response without prejudice.

The present response is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. More particularly, in the outstanding Office Action claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 17, and 18 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to that indication of the allowable subject matter each of claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 17, and 18 is herein amended to be rewritten in independent form, and thus each of those claims is believed to be allowable. As the other rejected claims are canceled without prejudice, only allowable claims are currently pending in this application.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

  
Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423